

IDEA-0510
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26 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Chief, WPD-BD/P

25X1A SUBJECT : Conversation with [] Assistant
to the Director for Public Relations Regarding U-2

REFERENCE : IDEA-0537

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1. At approximately 2:30 p.m. this date [] Secretary to the Assistant Chief, informed the writer that [] was endeavoring to contact you with regard to two Reporters who were at that time in his office discussing the possibility of writing a book on the U-2 program as outlined in reference memorandum. I indicated to [] that I would endeavor to locate the Assistant Chief and would call him back. I then refreshed my recollections of your conversation with him by reviewing reference memorandum.

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2. After discussing the matter briefly telephonically with the Assistant Chief, I called [] back at approximately 2:55 pm. The Colonel informed me that the Reporters had gone. He stated that he had told them that he could not discuss this matter. However, they pointed out to him that the DCI had given them the impression that he might not frown upon the publication of such a book. [] informed them that Mr. Dulles would not be available until he returned from a trip in mid November.

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3. The Reporters went on to point out that they contemplated contacting officers of the Air Force and Mr. Johnson of "Fairchild" on the West Coast. They also mentioned the possibility of contacting the State Department. [] went on to state that he told them they could not expect any support from us, and, if Mr. Dulles has a different view, they can get his reaction when they see him in mid November. They then inquired as to whether they could see Mr. Rick Bissell to discuss the matter, and [] response was "No, we would not permit you to see him and we would not authorize Mr. Bissell to discuss the matter with you."

4. [] conversation with the Reporters was then terminated.

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25X1A 5. It is apparent that we should alert Mr. Kelly Johnson of these developments and afford him appropriate guidance as to the manner in which he should respond to these inquiries. I suggest that []
25X1A [] address himself to preparing an outline as to the parameters in which Mr. Johnson should confine his discussions. My quick reaction is, if possible, Mr. Johnson should follow the same pattern as he was authorized to employ in the preparation of the HRC white paper "The U-2 Story" and not go beyond that area, particularly he should be admonished not to discuss the relationship with this organization.

6. It would also appear appropriate that Colonel Geary should be alerted and requested to place appropriate stops within the Air Force, and probably the Air Force response to any inquiries from these gentlemen should be to direct their thinking along the line of legitimate Air Force utilization of the U-2. State Department PIO should also be alerted and such other key points throughout the community that these gentlemen will be led to in pursuing their inquiries.

25X1A 7. Action responsibility in this matter, it is recommended, be given to []

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Signed []

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[]
Chief, Security Branch
DPD-DD/P

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25X1A DPD/SC: [] abh